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California, NYC to require employees to get COVID-19 vaccine

By PHILIP MARCELO
Associated Press

California and New York City announced Monday that they would require all government employees to get the coronavirus vaccine or face weekly COVID-19 testing, and the Department of Veterans Affairs became the first major federal agency to require health care workers to receive the shot.

Meanwhile, in a possible sign that increasingly dire health warnings are getting through to more Americans, vaccination rates began to creep up again, offering hope that the nation could yet break free of the coronavirus if people who have been reluctant to receive the shot are finally inoculated.

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A health care worker fills a syringe with the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, Thursday, July 22, 2021, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Associated Press



Sharing Menu \$50 per couple



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California, NYC to require employees to get COVID-19 vaccine

Continued from Front

The announcements are the "opening of the flood-gates" as more government entities and companies impose vaccine mandates after vaccine efforts nationwide "hit a wall," said Dr. Ashish Jha, dean of Brown University's School of Public Health.

"Some people find mask mandates annoying, but the reality is they're temporary. We can't do them forever," he said. "Vaccine mandates have to be one of the major paths moving forward because they get us closer to the finish line. Mask mandates just buy you a little more time."

In New York City, Mayor Bill de Blasio announced that all municipal workers — including teachers and police officers — will be required to get vaccinated by mid-September or face weekly COVID-19 testing, making the city one of the largest employers in the U.S. to take such action.

California said it will similarly require proof of vaccination or weekly testing for all state workers and health care employees starting next month.

The VA's move came on a day when nearly 60 leading medical and health care organizations issued a call through the American Medical Association for health care facilities to require their workers to get vaccinated.

Elsewhere, St. Louis became the second major city to mandate that face masks be worn indoors, regardless of vaccination status, joining Los Angeles in re-imposing the orders.

"For those who are vaccinated, this may feel like punishment, punishment for doing the right thing," St. Louis County Executive



Carlos Arrendondo arrives for his appointment to get vaccinated, as banners advertise the availability of the Johnson & Johnson and Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines at a county-run vaccination site at the Eugene A. Obregon Park in Los Angeles Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Associated Press

Sam Page, a Democrat, said Monday. "I've heard that, and I feel that frustration." President Joe Biden should "lead by example" and impose further mandates on the federal workforce and in public venues where the government has jurisdiction, including in planes, trains and federal buildings, said Dr. Leana Wen, a former Baltimore health commissioner.

"We need vaccine mandates and vaccine verification," she said. "We're well past the time for the Biden administration to get on board with this. What we're doing is not working. Doing more of the same is not the answer here."

The administration has so far recommended that unvaccinated people keep wearing masks indoors, but top officials over the weekend said they are considering recommending that the vaccinated also wear them indoors.

"We're going in the wrong direction," Dr. Anthony Fau-

ci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said Sunday on CNN's "State of the Union."

Wen, who is also an emergency physician and a professor at George Washington University, said public health experts have worried for months about this very scenario.

"We were worried the honor system would not work, the unvaccinated would be behaving as if they're vaccinated, and people would think the pandemic is over," she said. "That's precisely what has happened, and it's incredibly frustrating."

The U.S. should not have been caught off guard after watching the delta variant ravage India in May and then land in the United Kingdom, Israel and other highly vaccinated nations with force last month, added Dr. Albert Ko, an infectious disease specialist at Yale's School of Public Health.

"We have learned multiple

times to not take anything for granted with COVID," he said.

Jha said Americans should brace for another rough few months of COVID, which has already claimed nearly 611,000 lives in the U.S.

"I really thought this would be a fabulous summer, but I underestimated the misinformation campaign that was coming," he said Monday. "What were the chances that after more than half a million Americans dead, that one-third of the country would still not want to end the pandemic?"

Vaccinations ticked up over the weekend, with about 657,000 vaccines reported administered Saturday and nearly 780,000 on Sunday, according to CDC data. The 7-day rolling average on Sunday was about 583,000 vaccinations a day, up from about 525,000 a week prior.

Public health experts on Monday said the uptick in

vaccinations is encouraging but warned that it's far too early to say if millions of unvaccinated people are finally overcoming their reticence.

The U.S. is around 67% immune from COVID-19 when prior infections are factored, but it will need to get closer to 85% to crush the resurgent virus, Jha said.

"So we need a lot more vaccinations. Or a lot more infections," he said.

The seven-day rolling average for daily new cases in the country shot up over the past two weeks, from more than 19,000 on July 11 to nearly 52,000 on July 25, according to data from Johns Hopkins University.

Health experts said they are hopeful that the prominent conservative and Republican voices that have spent months casting doubt on the vaccination effort are finally willing to help move the needle.

House Minority Whip Steve Scalise and other Republicans on the GOP Doctors Caucus held a press conference at the Capitol late last week imploring their constituents to lay lingering doubts aside.

Fox News host Sean Hannity declared on his popular show: "It absolutely makes sense for many Americans to get vaccinated. I believe in science. I believe in the science of vaccinations." Facebook also needs to do a better job cleaning up misinformation on its social media platform, Jha said.

And the Food and Drug Administration needs to fully approve the COVID-19 vaccines, which currently have emergency approval. That final step will give more companies greater confidence to impose vaccine mandates, he suggested. □

8 U.S. attorney picks by Biden would include historic firsts

By ERIC TUCKER

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden is nominating eight new leaders for U.S. attorney positions across the country, including in the office overseeing the prosecutions of hundreds of defendants charged in the Jan. 6 insurrection at the Capitol.

The nominees announced by the White House on Monday come as the Justice Department is continuing to round out its leadership team under Attorney General Merrick Garland, who traveled to Chicago last week to announce an initiative to crack down on gun trafficking corridors. The Justice Department's 93 U.S. attorneys, who are responsible for federal criminal prosecutions in their respective districts, are likely to be central to efforts to combat violent crime.

If confirmed by the Senate, the nominees would run offices in the District of Columbia, Indiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York and Washington state. Most would be historic firsts, including the first Black or female attorneys to lead their districts, the Biden administration said.

The eight were "chosen for their devotion to enforcing the law, their professionalism, their experience



In this June 23, 2021 file photo, President Joe Biden listens as Attorney General Merrick Garland speaks during an event in the State Dining room of the White House in Washington to discuss gun crime prevention strategy.

and credentials in this field, their dedication to pursuing equal justice for all, and their commitment to the independence of the Department of Justice," the White House said.

The lawyers represent the first batch of U.S. attorney nominees advanced by the Biden White House, which is still working to fill key Justice Department posts six months into the administration. The White House last week announced that it would nominate a lawyer to run its antitrust division but also withdrew its

nominee for the civil division head. No nominee has been announced for the key solicitor general role.

Among the nominees announced Monday is Matthew Graves, a former fraud and public corruption prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in the District of Columbia who is being tapped to run that office at a time when it is consumed by hundreds of cases arising from the Capitol riot.

The Trump administration appointee who held the job during the riot, Michael Sherwin, has since left the

Justice Department. The position has been held on an acting basis by Channing Phillips, who served in the same role during the Obama administration.

Rachael Rollins, the district attorney in Suffolk County, Massachusetts, would be the first Black woman to serve as U.S. attorney in that state. Erik Barron, a current state lawmaker who has served as a prosecutor and as a policy adviser to Biden on the Senate Judiciary Committee, would be the first Black U.S. attorney in the District of Maryland, the

White House said.

Other nominees include Zachary Myers, who specializes in national security and cyber matters as a federal prosecutor in Maryland and who the White House says would be the first Black U.S. attorney in the Southern District of Indiana; and Clifford Johnson, who would be the first Black lawyer to lead the Northern District of Indiana after spending nearly 35 years in that office.

Justice Department environmental lawyer Vanessa Waldref would be the first woman to run the U.S. attorney's office in the Eastern District of Washington, the White House said. And Nicholas Brown, who has been a federal prosecutor and general counsel to the governor, would be the first Black lawyer to run the Western District of Washington, which encompasses Seattle.

The Justice Department disclosed in February that it was seeking the resignation of most U.S. attorneys appointed during President Donald Trump's administration, though it did leave in place David Weiss, the top federal prosecutor in Delaware, where law enforcement officials have been conducting a criminal tax investigation involving Biden's son, Hunter. □

Associated Press

Cuomo questions neutrality of AG investigators

By MARINA VILLENEUVE

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Gov. Andrew Cuomo projected confidence Monday that he'll ultimately be exonerated of allegations of sexual harassment, but he also questioned the neutrality of the lawyers hired to investigate his behavior.

Speaking at his first news conference in nearly two weeks, Cuomo said he had "concerns as to the independence of the reviewers," hired by state Attorney General Letitia James. James appointed former Joon Kim, the former acting U.S. attorney for Manhat-

tan, and the employment discrimination attorney Anne Clark to conduct the probe. The lawyers have spent months now speaking to women who say Cuomo subjected them to inappropriate kisses and touching or inappropriate sexual remarks. One woman, an aide to Cuomo, has said he groped her breasts. "Do a little history. Go to Google," Cuomo told reporters at a press conference at Yankee Stadium in the Bronx. "Google the independent investigators." He didn't elaborate, but his comments appeared to be a reference to Kim's work

as a top federal prosecutor. In that role, Kim helped direct an anti-corruption investigation that sent one of Cuomo's top aides and close friends, Joseph Percoco, to prison. Percoco was convicted of accepting more than \$300,000 from companies that wanted influence with Cuomo's administration.

Kim also was a senior figure in the U.S. attorney's office during its investigation of corruption in Cuomo's "Buffalo Billion" economic development program. A Cuomo ally, the former head of the State University of New York's Polytechnic



New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo speaks during a news conference at New York's Yankee Stadium, Monday, July 26, 2021.

Associated Press

Institute was convicted.

Cuomo was said to have been scheduled to meet two weekends ago with James' investigators. His spokesperson, Rich Azopardi, has declined to say whether that meeting

took place.

Cuomo, who has denied allegations he inappropriately touched female aides and other women, said he is "eager" for New Yorkers to get the facts of what happened. □

Maryland gov honors swimmer who withdrew from Paralympics

By BRIAN WITTE

Associated Press

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP)

— Maryland's governor honored deaf and blind swimmer Becca Meyers on Monday for courage in championing the disabled, after the three-time gold medalist withdrew from the Paralympics in Tokyo when told her mother couldn't travel to the games as her personal care assistant.

Gov. Larry Hogan presented a citation to Meyers during a news conference commemorating the 31st anniversary of the American with Disabilities Act. The certificate honored her "bravery for highlighting the issue of inequality and access for people with disabilities."

Hogan also signed an executive order declaring that Maryland will annually celebrate July as Disability Culture and Achievements Month.

"Becca deserved to be able to compete, and while we're all so disappointed for her, I got the chance to tell her just a moment before this started that I'm unbelievably proud of her for having the courage to speak up and to speak out



Associated Press

about this injustice," Hogan said.

Meyers, 26, said the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee had approved her mother to act as her assistant at all international meets since 2017 but the committee said her request to bring her mother this time was denied due to restrictions put in place by the Japanese government due to COVID-19. Meyers said she made the decision to withdraw to stand

up for future Paralympic athletes, saying she didn't want them to have to experience what she's been through.

"I hope to work with others to effect change so that no one ever feels afraid to travel with Team USA," Meyers said.

Hogan said he told Meyers before Monday's news conference that while he was proud of her for being a gold-medal winner, he was even more proud

of her speaking up to set an example for younger athletes. The governor criticized the decision not to allow her mother to travel to the games.

"There's a whole lot of problems with this Olympics, but that was probably the one that stood out the most with me," Hogan said. The U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, or USOPC, said that because of the pandemic, there are increased restrictions on

delegation size at the Tokyo Games, which left the federation only one slot for a personal care assistant who will have to assist 34 Paralympic swimmers. The PCA has more than 27 years of coaching experience and 11 years with para swimmers, the USOPC said.

"The decisions we've made on behalf of the team have not been easy, and we are heartbroken for athletes who are unable to have their previous support resources available," the USOPC said. "We are confident in the level of support we will offer Team USA and look forward to providing them a positive athlete experience even in the most unprecedented times."

At the 2016 Rio Paralympic games, Meyers said she experienced emotional and physical trauma from not being able to navigate on her own throughout the Olympic village.

"I need that reasonable and essential accommodation to then be able to perform to the best of my ability on the world stage," Meyers told reporters after Hogan presented her with a certificate. □

Ship hunts foreign ships doing work reserved for U.S. crews



This image provided by the Offshore Marine Service Association shows the patrol vessel, the Jones Act Enforcer in Leeville, La., on July 15, 2021.

Associated Press

By JANET McCONNAUGHEY

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Offshore energy service companies are out to find foreign-flagged ships hauling pipeline parts and other energy-related equipment from U.S. ports and deliver-

ing or installing them in U.S. waters.

The Offshore Marine Service Association has launched a ship to gather photos and videos of ships it considers to be violating a 1920 law requiring U.S.

vessels to carry cargo between U.S. locations. It will provide such evidence to U.S. Customs and Border Protection, which enforces the law, and to trade publications, said Aaron Smith, president and CEO of the association.

He said the Jones Act Enforcer, named after the law, will operate both in the Gulf of Mexico and in wind fields off the East Coast.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection declined to comment.

"I am absolutely delighted," said U.S. Rep. John Garamendi, a California Democrat who pushed for an amendment to a law covering the outer continental shelf — the land beneath federal offshore waters — to state that several laws including the Jones Act apply there.

He said he proposed his amendment, which is now law, in part because although it was clear that the Jones Act covered offshore oil and gas, it wasn't clear that it covered the wind industry.

A bill to repeal the Jones Act as a protectionist law that drives up prices is before the Senate Commerce Committee. Such proposals have been made frequently over the past decade but generally haven't made it out of committee, Garamendi said.

Offshore platforms and turbines and everything connected to them should be taken from U.S. ports and delivered or installed by U.S. crews on vessels built and owned in this country, Smith said.

"Many times, foreign vessels take each of those as-

sets from port and then install them," he said.

His group's 140-plus members include about 60 owners and operators of vessels that carry people, material and supplies to and from offshore rigs and platforms. Garamendi said the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol has "been a problem for years," by approving dozens of Jones Act loopholes. "They basically were in the hands of the international companies and would routinely write exemption orders," he said.

The association has challenged those loopholes in lawsuits and by lobbying members of Congress.

Smith said the Jones Act Enforcer will "show everyone just how many foreign mariners are taking money out of U.S. mariners' pockets." □

AP Interview: U.S. calls on China to be responsible power

By **KEN MORITSUGU**

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat called on China to rise above their differences and work with the United States on difficult global issues such as climate change and the COVID-19 pandemic as a responsible global power. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman, speaking in an interview with The Associated Press after talks Monday with Foreign Minister Wang Yi and Vice Foreign Minister Xie Feng, also said the U.S. welcomes vigorous economic competition with China but does not want it to veer into conflict. China has bristled at American criticism on issues from human rights to its territorial ambitions and said repeatedly that the U.S. cannot expect cooperation while also suppressing China's development, a charge that Sherman denied. "There are some things that rise above specific differences that are the global responsibility of great powers," Sherman said in a phone interview shortly after she wrapped up successive meetings with Xie and Wang in the Chinese city of Tianjin. The meetings were the



In this image taken from a July 26, 2021, video footage run by Phoenix TV via AP Video, U.S. deputy secretary of state Wendy Sherman looks up before talks with Chinese officials at the Tianjin Binhai No. 1 Hotel in the Tianjin municipality in China.

Associated Press

second face-to-face talks between top diplomats of the two countries since President Joe Biden took office in January, coming four months after testy exchanges between Secretary of State Antony Blinken and veteran Chinese diplomat Yang Jiechi in Anchorage, Alaska, in March. Sherman, who was sworn in in April, described the meetings as another step in the process of trying to

work through critical issues with China.

"We will see whether, in fact, there's follow up and we are able to move another step," she said. "There's no way to know in the early stages of building this relationship whether we will get to all the places that we hoped for." She said they had frank conversations on issues that divide them, ticking off a long list of U.S. concerns

including what she called "the crimes against humanity" against Muslims in China's Xinjiang region, the crackdown on democracy in Hong Kong, China's use of its economic size to pressure others, and its "aggressive actions" around Taiwan and in the South and East China Seas. Sherman also pressed for the release of some Americans and Canadians detained in China, saying

"people are not bargaining chips," and raised concern about pressure on foreign journalists in China. China has tried two Canadians on national security charges in apparent retaliation for Canada's arrest of a Chinese tech executive wanted in the U.S.

Xie accused the U.S. of trying to contain China's development and said it should change course, embrace fair competition and work with China on the basis of mutual respect and peaceful coexistence, according to a Foreign Ministry summary of his remarks. China calls criticism of its policies in Xinjiang, Hong Kong and Taiwan interference in its internal affairs. Sherman said the U.S. welcomes vigorous competition and believes it is important for China to grow and better the lives of its people, but in a way that is in accord with international rules and does not diminish any other country.

"We do expect ... them to understand that human rights are not just an internal matter, they are a global commitment which they have signed up for" under the U.N. Universal Declaration on Human Rights, she said. □

Pope to UN forum: Hunger is 'crime' violating basic rights

By **FRANCES D'EMILIO**

Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis on Monday decried as criminal the existence of hunger in a world which

can produce enough food for all, building on a warning from U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres that climate change and conflict are

a consequence and driver of poverty and income inequality.

Guterres told a meeting in Rome via video message that the world's food system generates a third of all greenhouse gas emissions. That same system is responsible for as much as 80% of biodiversity loss, he lamented in a video message.

The gathering was called to help prepare for a U.N. food systems summit to be held in September in New York.

In a written message that was read to meeting participants, Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has "confronted us with the systemic injustices that undermine our unity as a hu-

man family."

He said the the world's poorest people and the planet are crying out because of "the damage we inflict on it through irresponsible use and abuse of the goods God has placed in it."

The pontiff added that while new technologies are developed to increase the capacity to produce food on Earth, people continue to "exploit nature to the point of sterilization, thus expanding not only external deserts but also internal spiritual deserts." Francis called the "scandal" of hunger a "crime that violates basic human rights."

Earlier this month, a U.N. report noted that up to 161

million more people faced hunger last year compared to 2019, with much of that widened suffering likely linked to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Poverty, income inequality and the high cost of food continue to keep healthy diets out of the reach of some 3 billion people," Guterres said. "Climate change and conflict are both consequences and drivers of this catastrophe."

The summit idea was launched in 2019 months before the coronavirus emerged, but Italian Premier Mario Draghi said the pandemic made existing threats to food security more urgent. □



In this file photo dated Sunday, July 11, 2021, Pope Francis appears on a balcony of the Agostino Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome.

Associated Press

Philippine leader unabashedly threatens to kill drug dealers

By JIM GOMEZ

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte unabashedly renewed his threat to kill drug dealers in his final state of the nation speech on Monday, while defending his nonconfrontational approach in the country's territorial dispute with China in the South China Sea. Duterte, 76, who won a six-year presidential term in 2016, is winding down his often-tumultuous presidency amid a raging pandemic, a battered economy and a legacy overshadowed by his deadly campaign against illegal drugs that has set off complaints of mass murder before the International Criminal Court. While many expected him to focus on ways to combat the coronavirus, which has devastated the economy and worsened hunger and poverty, Duterte instead devoted most of a rambling, nearly three-hour televised speech to non-pandemic topics he has addressed repeatedly in the past.

Duterte reiterated his threat to kill drug dealers, explaining it is tougher to fight criminals "the legal way," while daring the Interna-



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte gestures as he delivers his final State of the Nation Address at the House of Representatives in Quezon City, Philippines on Monday, July 26, 2021.

Associated Press

tional Criminal Court to record his remarks.

"I would never deny and the ICC can record it: Those who destroy my country, I will kill you. And those who destroy the young people of our country, I will kill you," Duterte said. "I will really bring you down because I love my country."

"You can do it the legal way, but it would take you months and years," Duterte told an audience of legislators, Cabinet members and foreign diplomats.

Duterte and police officials have denied condoning extrajudicial killings, but he has repeatedly threatened to kill suspects in his public speeches. More than 6,000 mostly petty suspects have been killed during police drug raids. In addition, a large number have also been gunned down by motorcycle-riding assassins who human rights groups suspect are linked to law enforcement.

The killings have alarmed Western governments, U.N.

rights experts and human rights groups.

Duterte has acknowledged that he failed to fulfill a campaign promise to eradicate the drug menace and deeply entrenched corruption within six months of becoming president. But he said he had found at least nine police generals and Bureau of Customs officials were involved in the drug trade.

"I did not know that I was fighting my own government," he said, although

the involvement of law enforcers and public officials has long been reported.

Randy Delos Santos, whose 17-year-old nephew, Kian, was shot to death in 2017 by three officers who were later convicted of murder, said the poor have been traumatized by the drug crackdown.

"He has not won this war on drugs, because the problem is still there, but a lot of families have lost their breadwinners," Delos Santos told The Associated Press. "We're the biggest loser and we still live in fear."

An ICC prosecutor said last month a preliminary examination found reason to believe crimes against humanity had been committed under Duterte's crackdown on drugs and sought permission to open a formal investigation.

Duterte said he will never cooperate with a possible investigation.

Allies have defended Duterte's record, with documentaries on state-run TV and speeches highlighting his administration's efforts to fight criminality, poverty, corruption and decades-long communist and Muslim insurgencies, as well as build infrastructure. □

Police: IS sympathizers behind attempt on ex-Maldives leader

By MOHAMED SHARUHAAN

Associated Press

MALE, Maldives (AP)

— A Maldives group that sympathizes with the Islamic State group carried out an assassination attempt in May on former President Mohamed Nasheed, police said.

The suspected ringleader, identified only as Thasleem, was arrested on Saturday in the southern Addu atoll, Assistant Commissioner of Police Mohamed Riaz told reporters.

He said Thasleem was also arrested in 2017 for allegedly making a bomb in an apartment and was prosecuted, but his case did not move forward and he was released the following year without explanation.

Nasheed was injured in a May 6 blast outside his home in the capital, Male. The homemade bomb, planted in a parked motor-

bike and detonated by remote control, also injured four bystanders, including a British national.

Riaz said Saturday that



In this Feb. 14, 2019, file photo, former Maldives President Mohamed Nasheed takes a seat before delivering a lecture on climate change in New Delhi, India.

Associated Press

police have arrested 10 people for alleged involvement in the assassination attempt. He said the suspects spread IS ideologies but that investigators have not found any direct links between the groups.

He said the men had declared that Nasheed no longer believed in Islam and that his "blood should be spilled" because his political actions and speeches did not agree with Islamic values.

Nasheed was considered a moderate leader with close links to the West when he was president of the Sunni Muslim nation between 2008 to 2012. He was an outspoken critic of rising extremism in the Indian Ocean archipelago

state known for its high-end island resorts frequented by Western tourists.

Nasheed underwent several lifesaving surgeries after the attack and was then flown to Germany for further treatment.

He has recovered from his injuries.

Riaz said the group had made plans last year to kill Nasheed in front of his wife's house, but gave up because the location was not appropriate. They later discussed targeting Nasheed during his workouts but could not find an effective way, he said.

Islam is the state religion of the Maldives, and practicing and preaching other faiths are banned by law. □

Peru's new first family leaving behind rural, Andean home

By FRANKLIN BRICEÑO

Associated Press

CHUGUR, Peru (AP) — The humble two-story, adobe home of the Castillo family, located in one of the poorest districts of Peru deep in the Andes, feels a little empty now. Lilia Paredes packed up the family's belongings within the last week, neatly folding her husband's shirts and picking some plates and silverware in between visits from farmers from nearby villages stopping by to say goodbye.

A neo-baroque presidential palace awaits Paredes, her husband and Peruvian President-elect Pedro Castillo, and their two children should the family chose to live in the historic building. Castillo, will be sworn in as president Wednesday, less than two weeks after he was declared the winner of the June 6 runoff election. The leftist rural teacher, who has never held office, defeated his opponent, right-wing career politician Keiko Fujimori, by just 44,000 votes.

Paredes is not sure where



The future first lady of Peru, Lilia Paredes, 48, blows air through a hollow reed to get a fire going in her wood-burning stove in her adobe home in the rural hamlet of Chugur, Peru, Thursday, July 22, 2021.

Associated Press

she, her husband and two children will live starting Wednesday. She also does not know where the children will go to school once classes begin.

"We don't have any property in Lima," she told The Associated Press last week on her foggy patio in Chugur while she rubbed her

hands amid the cold of the Andean winter. "We are people from the countryside, and almost always, the provincial have to wait years to have a property in the capital. If they tell me to live in another place, it would also be the same, we are not kings to live in a palace, we go to work."

Castillo's supporters included the poor and rural citizens of the South American nation. He popularized the phrase "No more poor in a rich country," and stunned millions of Peruvians and observers by advancing to the runoff.

The economy of Peru, the world's second-largest

copper producer, has been crushed by the coronavirus pandemic, increasing the poverty level to almost one-third of the population and eliminating the gains of a decade.

The typical presidential transition process was derailed after Fujimori tried to overturn the result, asking election authorities to annul thousands of votes alleging fraud, an accusation she could never prove. That left the Castillo family little time to make plans and say their goodbyes.

Paredes, also a teacher, said she and her husband have to decide whether they will live in the presidential residence, but it is likely they will call it home.

She has seen it from the outside but has never stepped inside, not even on guided tours that were offered during pre-pandemic times.

Choosing their home is a significant decision given Castillo's anti-elite rhetoric. His campaign slogan could be called into question if the family moves into the ornate presidential palace. □

Nicaragua arrests 7th presidential contender in Nov. 7 vote

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Nicaraguan police placed under house arrest a seventh presidential contender on Saturday, meaning that almost all of those who could have challenged President

Daniel Ortega in the Nov. 7 elections have now been detained.

Opposition leader Noel Vidaurre was placed under police custody at his home on Saturday, as was political commentator Jai-

me Arellano. Arellano had been called in for questioning regarding a commentary he wrote criticizing an Ortega speech. Vidaurre was one of the potential presidential candidates of the Citizens for Liberty alliance. The conservative alliance announced it had chosen as its candidate Oscar Sovalbarro, a leader of the U.S.-supported "Contra" insurgency that fought the Sandinistas in the 1980s. It was not clear if Sovalbarro had accepted the nomination. Half a dozen other potential candidates have been arrested in a crackdown that began almost two months ago. qAlmost two dozen other journalists and opposition activists have also been detained. □



A youth carries a portrait of Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega during commemorations for the anniversary of the triumph of the 1979 Sandinista Revolution that toppled dictator Anastasio Somoza in Managua, Nicaragua, late Sunday, July 18, 2021.

Associated Press

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EAGLE BEACH — Located at Costa Linda Beach Resort between its captivating swimming pool and the amazing world-famous Eagle Beach Aruba, you will find 'Water's Edge Restaurant; a cozy, relaxing & inspiring Aruban restaurant. Serving the most mouthwatering dishes of all over the world to please all your taste buds with its popular and demanding international selection.



If you're looking for a phenomenal dinner experience that has all the ingredients for a wonderful gastronomic night, then you should book at least one night of your stay at Water's Edge Restaurant. Designed to pamper all your senses and cover all of your needs with an amazing staff to attend to your every wish, whether in the fine dining room or under a palapa with your toes in the sand.

Gastronomic journey

Kick start the night with a great, refreshing and most delicious cocktail mixed with concoctions before the grand tour of an extraordinary culinary experience. Start your journey with an exquisite appetizer such as the daily fresh made Water's Edge ceviche or maybe a world known jumbo shrimp cocktail followed by the Chef's special of seafood such as the Spicy Caribbean Seafood pasta, Mahi Mahi or pan fried Red Snapper served with Aruban creole sauce or garlic lemon butter. For the carnivores among us there are choices of 8 ounce seasoned Filet Mignon, 12 ounce Rib Eye steak or a French Rack of Lamb

seasoned and grilled to perfection. With choices of extra sides of fresh asparagus, seasonal vegetables, mashed or baked potatoes, fries or rice and beans. Combine your personal choice with one of the most exclusive wines from the great selection of international wines to compliment your dish. Kids will enjoy every item of the specially compiled kids menu. Vegetarians will enjoy the roasted vegetable pasta tossed in a light butter sauce and topped with freshly shaved parmesan cheese. As desserts the choices are wild. Homemade key lime pie, co-



conut flan served with caramel sauce and whipped cream or a NY cheese cake, chocolate brownie with chocolate sauce vanilla ice cream and whipped cream or a delicious oven fresh carrot cake served with orange sauce and candied pecans. Whether it is the best seafood, steaks, chicken, pasta, or your continental favorites the reasonably priced menu offers a modern twist and features generous portions and Chef's specials.

Creating memories

Planning a birthday or anniversary dinner? Water's Edges Restaurants gives you the perfect gift. Here, you will receive a nice bottle of champagne to take home with you to extend your experience even further whether on the beach or your own private balcony.

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Just about every day of the week, there is a different live entertainment by the best local artists for you to enjoy. On Monday & Saturday, Angela Flores, will delight you with her violin. Tuesday, Jean Paul, Saxophonist, will get you moving. On Wednesday's and Sunday's singer Paula Ridderstap will make you sing along to all her tunes. Thursday's and Friday's

guitarist Ricky Thomas will make you find your groove. And also on Sunday's Tico Kock will make you dance away to the sounds of his steel drum. Whether you're in a romantic mood or more in a swinging mood, there is absolutely a night especially for you. In addition, the best happy hour in Aruba happens right here. Water's Edge Restaurant offers three Happy Hours daily (12 noon – 1 pm, 4 pm – 6 pm, with complimentary hors d'oeuvres served by circulating staff, and again from 9 pm – 10 pm) with all premium brands specially priced.

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Article by Etnia Nativa

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Culture & Carnival

Episode CXIV - 114

NOORD — Carnival is a very rich festive cycle that, thanks to demonstrations loaded with satire, creates for a few days an universe ruled by scandal, nonsense and debauchery. Each carnival tends to parody what the rest of the year has been taken seriously. It is about executing a kind of judgment of the year from a transgressive and popular perspective, building a chronicle of what has worried society and assuming that this fact gives an extra interesting value to the celebration.

The festival is traditionally linked to Catholicism, since its celebration precedes Lent and its origins dates back to star gazing time keepers of Antiquity. The word Carnival comes from the Latin language "carnis levare" which means "to remove the meat." This sense is related to the fast that one must perform during Lent and also to the control of worldly pleasures, which shows an attempt by the Catholic Church to control the desires of the faithful. As globalization and modernity have not yet won the battle



against popular culture, carnival still resists cultural uniformity despite adapting to social change linking the present with the past and the individual with the community. The carnival party implies the conti-

nunity of the original local social groups and at this moment there is debate between the values of use (identity) and the values of change (tourism). The great enemies of the traditional carnival are the accelerated



process of change and the uniformity caused by globalization. Although there is a tendency to copy the "world carnival programs", in carnival party there are always two variants: the one version rooted in ancient customs and religious traditions, the other a more grotesque, spontaneous and street version. If we consider that the informal version is related to what is in fashion, we reach a turning point where the conventional social structure is destroyed to create an artificial one and try to level the carnival party to the culture of each place. This is where each society must make a difference and express its identity through its heritage; such is the case of Aruba, which had a very specific way of life before change was imposed. The carnival compared to other types of traditions such as the "Dera Gai" is a festival in constant process of change and transformation. It is precisely at this point where education is of great importance to protect intangible cultural assets, since that should differentiate the study of intangible heritage in general and that of dogmatic festive rituals in particular. If we understand intangible heritage as a deposit of the collective memory of peoples, we see that each social group is built on its traditions. However we must not forget that while the tradition for being dynamic is transformed, heritage and culture of our people is nourished by relevant and meaningful ways of life for those who created them and continue their practices. The way carnival is celebrated nowadays on Aruba has been very much influenced by English speaking Caribbean islands mainly Trinidad and its Steel band, Calypso beat in contrast to a regional religious expression very much connected to The old Roman Catholic Church, protector of the native, who incorporated and influenced many aspects of social behavior during seasonal procession and popular celebrations. □

To get to know more over Aruba's and its origins, its animals and culture, we highly recommend you to book your visit for our renowned cultural encounter session has been entertaining curious participants for decades. Mail us at etnianativa03@gmail.com or WhatsApp 297 592 2702 to confirm your participation. Our facilities and activities take place close to high rise hotels.

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Money supply expanded Summary of the Monthly Bulletin of May 2021

Monetary developments

In comparison to April 2021, money supply increased in May 2021 by Afl. 46.8 million to Afl. 4,984.5 million, resulting from an increase in the net foreign assets (+Afl. 51.2 million) and a shrinkage in the net domestic assets (-Afl. 4.4 million)

In May 2021, net foreign assets of the banking sector increased, due to net purchases of foreign exchange of Afl. 226.3 million from the public, mostly related to foreign exchange revenue from tourism exports and net transfers from foreign accounts. These were largely offset by net sales of foreign exchange of Afl. 175.0 million to the public, mainly associated with payments for goods imports and other services. The fall in the domestic component of money supply was primarily caused by a shrinkage in the domestic credit (-Afl. 5.9 million), while the non-credit related balance sheet items experienced an increase (+Afl. 1.5 million). The decline in domestic credit resulted from a decrease in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (-Afl. 8.9 million) and an increase in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector (+Afl. 3.0 million). The contraction in the claims of the banking sector on the private sector (Chart 2) was caused by decreases in loans to enterprises (-Afl. 5.8 million), consumer credit (-Afl. 3.0 million), and housing mortgages (-Afl. 0.2 million). The increase in the net claims of the banking sector on the public sector was the result of decreases in government deposits (-Afl. 23.0 million) and in gross claims (-Afl. 19.9 million).

Inflation

The consumer price index (CPI) for May 2021 noted a 0.2 percent decrease year-over-year (YOY) compared to a 0.4 percent decline (YOY) for April 2021. The main contributors to this decrease were the "Household Operation" and "Recreation and Culture" components. The 12-month average inflation rate was -2.2 percent in May 2021, compared to -2.3 percent in April 2021.

Government

Total government revenue amounted to Afl. 98.8 million in May 2021, Afl. 30.4 million less than the same month of the previous year. The surge in government revenue resulted from an increase in tax revenue (+Afl. 31.8 million) and a decrease in the nontax revenue (-Afl. 1.4 million). The main contributors to the increase in tax revenue were increases in import duties (+Afl. 8.0 million), turnover tax (B.B.O./B.A.V.P) (+Afl. 6.7 million), gasoline tax (+Afl. 2.8 million), profit tax (+Afl. 2.4 million), and liquor tax (+Afl. 2.2 million). The reduction in nontax revenue was caused by a decrease in other nontax revenue of Afl. 1.4 million.

Tourism

Aruba did not receive stay over visitors during May of 2020, therefore the figures of May 2019 were used to compare with figures of May 2021. The number of stay over visitors amounted to 70,683 in May 2021, which is 17,860 less visitors (-20.2 percent) than in May 2019. The Latin American market, the North American market and the European market declined by of 6,968 visitors (-79.7 percent), 6,801 visitors (-9.7 percent), and 4,248 visitors (-58.2 percent), respectively. These reductions were caused by overall decreases in visitors from all the countries in each market. □

Liz Weston: How to have a retirement worth saving for

LIZ WESTON of NerdWallet

Most advice about retirement planning focuses on how to save enough money to replace your paycheck.

But work provides us with a lot more than income. Many of us get a sense of meaning, accomplishment and even identity from what we do. Work also provides social connections and a structure for our days.

Losing all that can be disorienting, which is why experts — including some who have already retired — recommend thinking about how you will replace those aspects of work.

"Most adults don't want a life of pure leisure," certified financial planner Barbara O'Neill writes in her book "Flipping a Switch: Your Guide to Happiness and Financial Security in Later Life." "They crave a sense of purpose, meaningful daily activities and relationships, and the freedom to do what they want, even if that means continuing to work."

ENVISION A TYPICAL DAY

Retirement often starts with a flurry of activity as people travel, visit family and indulge in favorite pastimes. But retirement experts recommend envisioning a more typical day after you've checked off some of your bucket list activities. How will you spend each hour, starting from the time



This undated file photo provided by NerdWallet shows Liz Weston, a columnist for the personal finance website. (NerdWallet via Associated Press)

you wake up? Who will you spend time with? How will you respond when someone asks "What do you do?"

O'Neill, for example, doesn't use the word "retired" to describe herself. Instead, she explains that she left Rutgers University after 41 years as a professor and now owns Money Talk Financial Planning Seminars and Publications, where she writes and speaks about personal finance topics.

In fact, research shows that working in retirement is associated with greater happiness. Part-time work also can help you phase into retirement gradually,

says CFP Shelly-Ann Ewaka, senior director of financial planning strategy at finance firm TIAA.

"Some people get really stressed out, because it does seem final," Ewaka says of retirement. "Consider working part time to have less employment and more free time so you can ease yourself into it."

TAKE RETIREMENT FOR A TEST-DRIVE

You may want to take your vision of retirement out for a test-drive before you quit work, Ewaka says. Consider spending a two-week vacation doing what you hope to do in retirement, such as playing golf, traveling, volunteering or look-

ing after the grandkids. If you're planning to move to another area, you might rent a home there for a few weeks, if possible. You may discover that the reality meets or exceeds your expectations. If not, you can alter your plans before you commit, Ewaka says.

Also consider how you'll replace the social interactions you get from work. People with strong social connections tend to be happier, healthier and live longer. You can invest in existing relationships before and after retirement by spending more time with family and friends. O'Neill recommends setting designated days and times to regularly connect, either in person or by phone or video call.

But aging also means you'll be losing connections as people die or move away. Volunteering, joining community organizations or just getting to know your neighbors better can help you build relationships with new people, O'Neill says. The companionship of a dog, cat or other pet also can contribute to well-being.

LIVE PURPOSEFULLY

Without work-imposed structure, some people start to drift, with one day blurring into the next. Setting goals and taking steps to achieve them can help restore a sense of purpose and achievement, O'Neill says.

O'Neill started her post-Rutgers life by setting five goals: finishing the book she was writing; staying active in financial education; cultivating friendships; "doing lots of fun things and new things"; and staying healthy by walking 10,000 steps daily, eating healthy foods and getting at least 7 hours of sleep each night. (Tending to your physical well-being is key: 81% of retirees in a 2014 Merrill Lynch study cited good health as a key ingredient for a happy retirement.)

Achieving specific, measurable goals can help people redefine their concept of productivity, which is important to many people's sense of self-worth, O'Neill says. Goals also can help offset a tendency to put things off.

People who are used to saving and delayed gratification may have trouble "flipping the switch" to spending and enjoying their lives, O'Neill says. But time, good health and energy aren't infinite. Many people in her 55+ community in Ocala, Florida, struggled during the pandemic not just because their plans were canceled, but because of an acute awareness that the clock was ticking, she says.

"It wasn't just two years lost, it was two good years," O'Neill says. "You don't know how many of those you have left." □

Tobacco CEO sees end to cigarettes in Britain in 10 years

The chief executive of the company that makes Marlboro cigarettes was quoted by Britain's Mail on Sunday as saying that the tobacco company foresaw an end to its sales of traditional cigarettes in Britain within 10 years.

"I want to allow this company to leave smoking behind," Jacek Olczak, the CEO of Philip Morris International, was quoted in the paper saying.

"I think in the UK, ten years from now maximum, you can completely solve the problem of smoking."

Asked if that meant Philip

Morris would stop selling traditional cigarettes in the UK within that time, he was quoted as saying, "Absolutely."

Olczak said that the company's Marlboro brand would "disappear" from Britain.

For years, Philip Morris has said that its future will not include Marlboro cigarettes as it shifts to electronic devices.

The company has been vocal in laying out its goal of replacing cigarettes with alternatives such as its IQOS heated tobacco system that heats tobacco without

burning it.

The goal of Philip Morris, it has said, is to become a majority smoke-free company in terms of net revenues by the end of 2025. In July 2019 the British government said it wants to end smoking in England by 2030.

Philip Morris International Inc. was spun off from the tobacco company Altria in 2008 to focus on sales in emerging markets, while Altria operates in the U.S. domestic market and is the parent company of Philip Morris USA. □



In this July 17, 2012 file photo, Marlboro cigarettes are displayed in Montpelier, Vt.

Associated Press

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 Takes care of the final details
- 7 Told tales
- 11 Playwright Eugene
- 12 Not busy
- 13 Doorway hanging
- 15 Bona fide
- 16 Saloon quaff
- 18 Word of action
- 21 Edges
- 22 Kitchen gadgets
- 24 Phone download
- 25 Brooks of film
- 26 Director Spike
- 27 Tie up
- 29 Chess win
- 30 Did a textile job
- 31 Printed matter
- 32 Flexible
- 34 Absolutely sure
- 40 Pearl Harbor setting
- 41 Origin
- 42 Snare
- 43 Quartet plus trio

DOWN

- 1 Unruly crowd
- 2 Low digit
- 3 Stew sphere
- 4 Moves like a crab
- 5 Peptic problem
- 6 Cord end
- 7 Refuse
- 8 Writer Tarbell
- 9 Yale rooter
- 10 Bear's lair
- 14 Competitor
- 16 Human, for one
- 17 Unoccupied
- 19 Take it easy
- 20 Quar-terback
- 21 Sewer dweller
- 22 Apiece
- 23 Notice
- 25 Army healer
- 28 Delayed
- 29 Get together
- 31 Painful spasm
- 33 Thomas Hardy heroine
- 34 Morse bit
- 35 Lobed organ
- 36 Cry of insight
- 37 Museum focus
- 38 Drink cubes
- 39 Rink material

F	E	N	C	E		L	A	C	E	S
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Yesterday's answer

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40					41					
42					43					

7-27

A X Y D L B A A X R
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

7-27

CRYPTOQUOTE

E L A O U A N B G N Q L Z D A Z L T I A

V L Q N F L T D A I N P N Z V N N

B L L K U Z A L Q I B G N Z L U A .

— Y V U X A Y I N V N I

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: STAY AWAY FROM NEGATIVE PEOPLE, THEY HAVE A PROBLEM FOR EVERY SOLUTION. — ALBERT EINSTEIN



In this 2019 photo provided by researcher Barbara Klump, a sulphur-crested cockatoo lifts the lid of a trash can while several others watch in Sydney, Australia.

Associated Press

Crafty cockatoos master dumpster diving and teach each other

By CHRISTINA LARSON
AP Science Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A few years ago, a Sydney scientist noticed a sulfur-crested cockatoo opening his trash bin. Not every resident would be thrilled, but ornithologist Richard Major was impressed by the ingenuity. It's quite a feat for a bird to grasp a bin lid with its beak, pry it open, then shuffle far enough along the bin's edge that the lid falls backward revealing edible trash treasures inside.

Intrigued, Major teamed up with researchers in Germany to study how many cockatoos learned this trick. In early 2018, they found from a survey of residents that birds in three Sydney suburbs had mastered the novel foraging technique. By the end of 2019, birds were lifting bins in 44 suburbs. "From three suburbs to 44 in two years is a pretty rapid spread," said Major, who is based at the Australian Museum. The researchers' next ques-

tion was whether the cockatoos had each figured out how to do this alone or whether they copied the strategy from experienced birds. And their research published Thursday in the journal Science concluded the birds mostly learned by watching their peers. "That spread wasn't just popping up randomly. It started in southern suburbs and radiated outwards," said Major. Basically, it caught on like a hot dance move. □

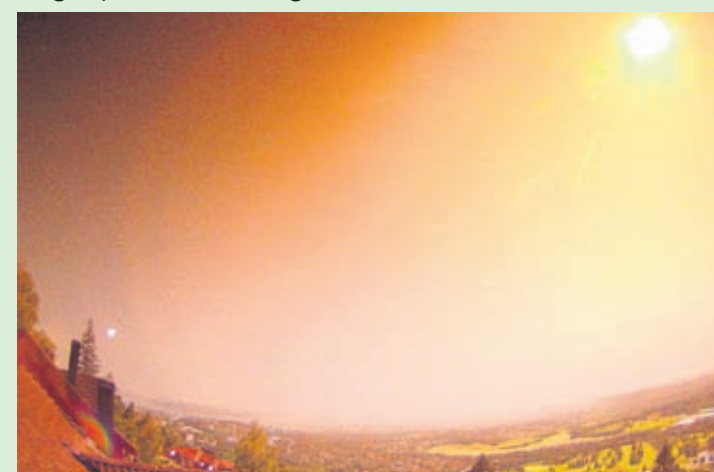
Large meteor lights up skies in Norway

HELSINKI (AP) — Norwegian experts say an unusually large meteor was visible over large parts of southern Scandinavia and illuminated southeast Norway with a powerful flash of light for a few seconds as many observers were reported to also hear a roaring sound afterwards. The Norwegian Meteor Network said that it had analyzed and reviewed several videos of the event Sunday and said the meteor first appeared about 90 kilometers (55 miles) north of the capital, Oslo, and continued its trail in a southwest direction before fragmenting in several flashes of light.

"The meteor appeared at 1:08 a.m. on the night of July 25 and was visible for

approximately for 5 seconds," said the network said, which had posted a video on the phenomenon on its Twitter site. Sightings of meteors, space rocks that burn brightly after entering the

Earth's atmosphere at high speed, aren't uncommon over Norway and the Norwegian Meteor Network has a number of cameras continuously monitoring the sky. □



In this photo released by the Norwegian Meteor Network, a view of an unusually large meteor visible in Oslo, Sunday, July 25, 2021, giving a powerful flash of light over Eastern Norway.

Associated Press

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Reid Miller brings Jadin Bell's story to the big screen

By **LINDSEY BAHR**
AP Film Writer

Actor Reid Miller was around 13 years old when he first heard about the death of Jadin Bell. The Oregon teenager who died by suicide in 2013 inspired a national conversation about bullying and its effects on LGBTQ youth. It never occurred to Miller, now 21, that in less than a decade he would get the opportunity to portray Jadin in a feature film. Doing so, he said, was "an honor."

"Joe Bell" is not an easy story, but it's one that many, including Jadin's surviving family, have been committed to telling for years. After Jadin died, his father, Joe Bell, decided to walk across the continental United States spreading awareness about the negative effects of bullying.

Producer Cary Joji Fukunaga stumbled on the story in an article in 2013 and saw in it the possibility for a feature, enlisting the Oscar-winning screenwriting duo behind "Brokeback Mountain," Diana Ossana and Larry McMurtry, who died this year, to bring it to life. Not long after, Wahlberg signed on to produce and star as Joe Bell, who is com-



This image provided by Roadside Attractions shows Reid Miller, left, portraying Jadin Bell, and Mark Wahlberg, portraying Bell's father in a scene from the film "Joe Bell."

Associated Press

ing to terms with the guilt around not doing enough to support and protect his son. Naturally, the part of Jadin was pivotal and led to a nationwide casting search. Casting director Avy Kaufman brought Miller, a relatively unknown actor, to the attention of the filmmakers. Not only did the Texas native resemble Jadin, but, according to director Reinaldo Marcus Green, he also had an immediate chemistry with

Wahlberg.

"He and Mark connected in a way that felt like real life, and this was with no camera, this is just me watching the two of them do a scene in Mark's room," Green said. "Jadin had a natural strength about him. He was quite joyous on the outside, but he also had experienced a lot of darkness, and Reid was able to embody all of that."

As a big fan of the Transformers movies, Miller said

he geeked out a bit during his first meeting with Wahlberg, but they quickly got to work and formed a deep bond. Wahlberg, Miller added, treated him as both an artistic equal and like a son. The unique relationship helped him find the emotional strength and vulnerability necessary for the difficult role. And it proved to be a moving experience for Wahlberg too.

"Every time we read a scene together, I got super

emotional," Wahlberg said. "He constantly made me think about my own sons."

Miller never lost sight of the delicacy of the challenge of portraying Jadin either, which came into even clearer focus when he met Jadin's mother, Lola Lathrop, one day on set.

"It's such a sensitive thing. I did my best to portray him as authentically as I could while remembering that it's not necessarily my job to bring him back but to give his family and friends a piece of him back," Miller said. "I feel like we did that."

And he hopes the movie helps to open people's minds about the ongoing issues around bullying and LGBTQ rights.

"We live in a time where equality and acceptance and unity is unfortunately something we still have to fight for, especially with the LGBTQ community," he said. "We've had a lot of laws passed that are very beneficial to the LGBTQ+ community, but there are still so many things and so many fights to be had for equality. And I hope that this movie softens the hearts of those people who maybe don't view them as people." □



In Wednesday, Feb. 20, 2019 file photo, singer Pink poses for photographers upon arrival at the Brit Awards in London.

Associated Press

By **JARI TANNER**
Associated Press

HELSINKI (AP) — U.S. pop singer Pink has offered to pay a fine given to the Norwegian female beach handball team for wearing shorts instead of the required bikini bottoms. Pink said she was "very proud" of the team for

protesting against the rule that prevented them from wearing shorts like their male counterparts.

In a tweet posted on Sunday, Pink said: "The European handball federation SHOULD BE FINED FOR SEXISM. Good on ya, ladies." She added that "I'll be happy to pay your fines for

Singer Pink backs beach handball team on 'sexist' clothing

you. Keep it up."

At the European Beach Handball Championships in Bulgaria last week, Norway's female team was fined 1,500 euros (\$1,770) for what the European federation called improper clothing and "a breach of clothing regulations." The rules stipulate that women must wear bikini bottoms while men wear shorts.

The Norwegian Handball Federation didn't contest the decision, seen by the Norwegian team and several others as unfair, and announced earlier that it was ready to pay the fine. The European Handball Federation acknowledged the commotion that the

incident had triggered in media outlets and social media, and said Monday that it would donate the amount paid by the Norwegian Handball Federation "to a major international sports foundation which supports equality for women and girls in sports". "We are very much aware of the attention the topic has received over the past days, and while changes cannot happen overnight, we are fully committed that something good comes out of this situation right now which is why the EHF has donated the fine for a good cause promoting equality in sports," European Handball Fed-

eration President Michael Wiederer said in a statement.

Wiederer said that handball already was ahead of other sports in some respects, such as the parity given to the men's and women's competitions. He said such parity had been achieved in beach handball much sooner than it had in soccer, for example.

The Norwegian women posted a photograph of themselves on Instagram wearing shorts and told their followers: "Thank you so much for all the support. We really appreciate all the love we have received." □

Tokyo Olympics: A success? A failure? And how to judge?

By STEPHEN WADE

AP Sports Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Will it be a success? A failure? Or none of the above?

It will take something much more nuanced than those basic notions to assess the pandemic-delayed Tokyo Olympics when they wrap up in two weeks. The response will be twisted by dozens of parties with their own interests.

There's the International Olympic Committee. The 11,000 athletes. The Japanese organizing committee. The Japanese public. The absent fans.

And how about the sponsors? Or the Japanese government and Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga. There is the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and Governor Yuriko Koike, who has higher political aspirations. The Tokyo medical community. And television rights holders like American television network NBC.

Just getting through it will be cast as a success by many. This may be the spin no matter what happens, particularly for the IOC, its broadcast partners and Japanese media. A half dozen newspapers in Japan are domestic sponsors and have a vested interest in portraying the Games positively.

The more the focus is on the sports — and off politics, costs, corruption and COVID-19 — the better it is for the Switzerland-based IOC. Pushing on with the Olympics after the postponement — and during the pandemic — has hurt the IOC's reputation in Japan. Kaori Yamaguchi, a former bronze medalist and a member of the Japanese Olympic Committee, said a few months ago that she was shocked to find the IOC operated primarily as an "entertainment" business.

The IOC generates almost 75% of its income from the sale of broadcast rights. Another 18% is from sponsors. Estimates suggest that canceling the Tokyo Olympics might have cost the IOC \$3 billion to \$4 billion. About 40% of the IOC's



In this July 14, 2021, file photo, International Olympic Committee President Thomas Bach, left, meets Japanese Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga during his courtesy call at the latter's official residence in Tokyo.

Associated Press

total income is from one source — NBC.

"The focus (now) is on the field of play, on the athletes where we always feel it should be," Kit McConnell, the IOC's sports director, said Sunday after the first full day of competition.

The IOC also needs the focus to be off COVID. The Japanese public has been conditioned to expect some positive cases, and they are likely to accept this inevitability if all events are held and wrap up with medal ceremonies. Canceled events and unclaimed medals will be difficult to dismiss.

"If that happens, that would be a negative blow for the public, for the IOC, and everybody else," Kazuto Suzuki, a political scientist at Tokyo University, told The Associated Press in an interview.

The biggest winner if the Olympics are portrayed positively will be Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga, whose ruling LDP party faces a general election this fall. Suga's approval ratings keep dropping, tied to Japan's slow rollout of vaccines and to his unpopular decision to barrel ahead with the Olympics despite opinion polls showing many Japanese opposed.

Suga's advantage is the ruling party's weak opposition.

The LDP has ruled Japan almost continuously since the end of World War II.

"This is a very politically sensitive time, and Suga wants to use the Olympics as a stepping stone for his success in the election," Suzuki said. "Japan's success in the Olympics and winning gold medals, and the Japanese people cheering and rooting for the Japanese athletes. Those kind of things are working positively for Suga." Suzuki said Suga also has an eye on not wanting to fail with these Olympics given that Japan's rival and neighbor, China, puts on its own show starting Feb. 4 with the Beijing Winter Games.

"They are afraid that China will be celebrated as the champion and global leader in this pandemic," Suzuki said.

Seiko Hashimoto, the president of the organizing committee, has repeatedly said the Olympics will be successful if they are "safe and secure." Pressed to elaborate, she has been unable to specify exactly what that means.

But it's difficult to see how the Olympics can be portrayed as a success for the average Japanese. Fans are barred from all but a few outlying venues, and they're being told to stay home and watch what is

now an entirely made-for-TV Olympics.

Ditto for sponsors. More than 60 local sponsors kicked in more than \$3 billion — at least two times more than any previous Games — to be connected to the Olympics. Toyota, Japan's most famous manufacturer and a long-time IOC sponsor, has pulled all its Olympic-related TV advertising from Japan during the Olympics. Many other sponsors have talked openly about not wanting to be tied to the Olympic brand. The chaotic runup to the Olympics has also exposed corruption, misogyny and bullying in Japan, undermining success even before the Games began. Tsunekazu Takeda, who headed the Japanese Olympic Committee, resigned in a scandal 2 1/2 years ago tied to bribery allegations surrounding the IOC vote in 2013 to award the Games to Tokyo. Yoshiro Mori, a former prime minister, was forced out six months ago as the head of the organizing committee for making demeaning comments about women. And just last week, on the eve of the opening ceremony, its director resigned for comments about the Holocaust and a composer stepped away after acknowledging accusa-

tions of bullying. That came months after the creative director resigned for derogatory comments — again about women.

Barbara Holthus, a sociologist at the German Institute for Japanese Studies, said the embarrassments may raise awareness and prompt change in Japan, a largely homogenous, island nation that nevertheless named mixed-race Naomi Osaka to light the cauldron in Friday's opening ceremony.

The move seems widely accepted in Japan, though Osaka barely speaks Japanese and has lived much of her life in the United States. She has a Japanese mother and a Haitian father, but has given positive attention to the Olympics — even for those Japanese who oppose the Games.

"The Japanese economy and Japanese people are the big losers here," Holthus said. "However, if these nods to sustainability, diversity, and inclusion stick and bring about significant change, then that would be great for Japanese society. But this cannot be evaluated right after the Games and probably continues to be a slow process." She also criticized IOC President Thomas Bach for forcing through the Olympics, calling discussion of its message of hope "an elitist position."

David Wallechinsky, one of the world's best-known Olympic historians, said these Games will be evaluated like all the rest — by the medal count.

"Every nation is going to judge it by how well their athletes did, just like any other Olympics," Wallechinsky told The Associated Press. "If the United States wins 50 gold medals — they won't — nobody in the US is going to talk about the pandemic. Because in the end, that's what it's all about — the medals."

Wallechinsky said just getting out of Tokyo in one piece will please the IOC. But there is more trouble ahead with the boycott-threatened Beijing Olympics. □

Comeback story? Tebow opens Jags training camp as '1 of 90'

By **MARK LONG**

AP Pro Football Writer

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP)

— Tim Tebow is one of the first to arrive at Jacksonville Jaguars practice. He jogs onto the field, stretches a little, catches footballs from a Jugs machine, then finds his usual spot in the team's warmup lines. He's waaaay in the back, just in front of a rookie.

Tebow's far from the spotlight, right where coach Urban Meyer wants the 2007 Heisman Trophy winner for now.

"It's one of 90 trying to make the team," Meyer says.

Tebow will open training camp Wednesday as Jacksonville's fourth- or fifth-string tight end, not all that surprising given he's closing in on his 34th birthday; started playing the position five months ago; and is trying to return to the NFL after spending the previous five years in the New York Mets' organization. He hit .223 with 18 home runs and 107 RBIs while never making it to the big leagues.

He asked Meyer, his college coach at nearby Florida, for a tryout after retiring from baseball in January. Meyer obliged and ended up giving him a one-year contract worth \$920,000, the minimum for a player with three accrued NFL seasons. The low-risk deal includes no guaranteed money, so Tebow would



Jacksonville Jaguars tight end Tim Tebow, left, performs a drill during an NFL football team practice in Jacksonville, Fla., in this Thursday, May 27, 2021, file photo.

Associated Press

have to make the team to earn a dime.

And that's the uncertain part. Jacksonville already has three tight ends essentially locked into roster spots: run-blocking specialist Chris Manhertz who was a top target in free agency; fellow veteran James O'Shaughnessy, whose one-year, \$1.59 million contract is mostly guaranteed; and fifth-round draft pick Luke Farrell, who played for Meyer at Ohio State.

Jacksonville also has Tyler Davis, a sixth-round selection in 2020, and second-year pro Ben Ellefson, whom Meyer calls one of the most improved at the

position.

The Jaguars have offered little information about Tebow's transition, partly because they don't want the former star quarterback becoming a daily distraction.

The rebuilding team didn't make Tebow or any other tight end available for media interviews during organized team activities and canceled position coach Tyler Bowen's scheduled session at the last minute in June.

Offensive coordinator Darrell Bevell, meanwhile, mentioned four tight ends — just about everyone but Tebow — when asked about

competition at the spot.

"Some of the things that the tight end position is asked to do is really not going to show up in a camp like this," he said following a three-day minicamp last month. "It's a physical position. It's part offensive line and it's part wide receiver. So some of the stuff is not going to be able to show up, but it's a much-improved room from top to bottom."

No doubt Tebow will have a better chance of standing out when players start practicing in full pads next week. The 6-foot-3, 245-pounder has always been one of the more im-

posing guys on the field — big, strong and eager to run over anyone in his path. It's one of the reasons Meyer believes his best position could be tight end. But to make the Jaguars, Tebow might need to be more versatile than ever: a dependable backup tight end, a core special teams player, a wildcat option in short-yardage and goal-line situations. Maybe even an emergency QB.

No matter what he does, he's sure to still have doubters.

"As a player that went through training camp with Tim, there's going to be players rolling their eyes at how much attention the fourth- or fifth-string tight end gets," former New York Jets quarterback and current ESPN college football analyst Greg McElroy said. "It's going to (tick) people off. As a result, it's going to affect locker room chemistry, like it did with us with the Jets. Not because there's animosity toward Tim, but there's animosity toward the coverage Tim receives. I think it's a stupid move."

"You're starting your tenure at Jacksonville, you're setting the tone and people say he can help with leadership. Let me tell you what helps with leadership in the NFL: money. You want guys to be incentivized? Pay them. ... I think it really undercuts what Urban Meyer is trying to build." □



Pittsburgh Pirates' Adam Frazier celebrates after driving in two runs with a single off New York Mets starting pitcher Marcus Stroman during the second inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Friday, July 16, 2021.

Associated Press

Pirates trade All-Star 2B Frazier to Padres

By **WILL GRAVES**

AP Sports Writer

The Pittsburgh Pirates have traded All-Star second baseman Adam Frazier to the playoff-contending San Diego Padres for three minor leaguers.

Frazier was the National League starter in the All-Star Game this month. He leads the majors with 125 hits and is batting .324. He'll join a potent Padres infield that includes Fernando Tatis Jr., Manny Machado and Eric Hosmer.

Pittsburgh is receiving infielder Tucupita Marcano, outfielder Jack Suwinski

and right-hander Michell Miliano in the swap. Pittsburgh is sending approximately \$1.4 million to the Padres in the deal. The MLB trade deadline is this Friday.

The Padres are 58-44 and third in the NL West, and hold a cushion for the second wild-card spot. The Pirates have the second-worst record in the NL.

Frazier was pulled in the eighth inning as part of a double switch in Sunday's 6-1 loss at San Francisco. Marcano is San Diego's No. 5 prospect, according to MLB Pipeline. The 21-year-

old shortstop made his big league debut this year, hitting .182 in 44 at-bats with the Padres. He was sent down to Triple-A El Paso in early June. He's hit .272 with six home runs and 26 RBIs in 44 games for El Paso this year.

Suwinski, a 15th-round draft pick by the Padres in 2016, has hit .269 with 15 homers and 37 RBIs for Double-A San Antonio this season. The 21-year-old Miliano has made 22 relief appearances this year with two Class A teams, going 2-2 with a 3.60 ERA. □